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## YUGOSLAVIA:

## Army Intervention Rumblings Growing

*Yugoslav military leaders are signaling that they are prepared to impose martial law to prevent the breakup of the country* [REDACTED]

Former Defense Secretary Mamula, who is still close to the Army command, publicly warned this week that the Army would use "repressive measures" to save the federation and flatly rejected a confederation on the model proposed by Slovenia and Croatia. The Air Force chief, who visits Washington next week, told [REDACTED] this month that the military would use force to prevent the breakup of the country. A report [REDACTED] claims all military officers from corps commander rank and up met secretly on 12 November and were told the Army would act unilaterally rather than allow the federation to disintegrate. [REDACTED]

The Army also is behaving in ways that could precipitate confrontations with local nationalists. [REDACTED], the Slovenes this week rejected an Army ultimatum that the Slovene government surrender all weapons held by the republic national guard. Serbian Republic elections on 9 December could be another flashpoint; [REDACTED] the military may move to suppress any election-related unrest in Serbia. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] These developments suggest the military would be prepared to act without authorization by civilian leaders. They coincide with the formation of a new, hardline Communist party dominated by military leaders that could serve as a political front for a power grab. [REDACTED]

If military leaders are prepared for the probability of fragmenting the armed forces and triggering civil strife, they can easily find a pretext to impose martial law. Their signals clearly indicate that attempted secession by any republic would be more than enough excuse, so the referendum on secession the Slovenes plan to hold by mid-January could become the occasion for intervention. The military could also find a pretext to act sooner. [REDACTED]

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